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In early June, 1933, the senior author received two live rattlesnakes from Willis Woolems, a reptile dealer in San Antonio, Texas, who had just returned from a collecting trip along the east coast of Mexico, south of Tampico, Veracruz. It was noted that these snakes were different in some respects from representatives of *Crotalus durissus durissus* then at hand but formal recognition by name was withheld pending the appearance of additional specimens. Both were photographed, the usual scale counts and other notes were recorded, the smaller was purchased and the larger returned to Mr. Woolems. A rattlesnake said to be from southern Chiapas recently received from Woolems by the Staten Island Zoological Society is similar in all fundamental characters to the two from Veracruz and furnishes additional data which seem to justify the description of a new form.

Although relationship with *durissus* is obvious, these specimens are apparently distinct in definitive characters and the geographic range of the population they represent is imperfectly known. For the present, therefore, the new form is not regarded as a subspecies of *durissus* but is given a binomial. Since we can not associate it definitely with any of the names already in the literature, we propose that it be known as

***Crotalus totonacus*, sp. nov.**

Diagnosis.—Superficially similar to *C. d. durissus* but having a distinctly higher number of ventrals (male 189, 2 females 192, 194; maximum for *durissus* males 187, females 189), and relatively less subdivision of the scales of the head; a conspicuous spinal ridge is lacking, the scales of the body are less strongly tuberculate, and the paravertebral stripes are short and ill-defined.

Type Specimens.—Holotype: Chicago Academy of Sciences No. 4469 (Fig. 1), a subadult female from Panaco Island, about 75 miles south of Tampico, Veracruz, 12 miles inland from Cabo Rojo; collected in May, 1933. Paratype: an adult male, living in the collection of the Staten Island Zoological Society (Fig. 2), received in January, 1940, and said to have been collected in southern Chiapas.

Description of Type Specimens.—Holotype: Muzzle acute from above, obtusely truncate in profile. Rostral higher than wide, acutely rounded above, concave in front and below, slightly expanded at base. Internasals 2; canthals 2, in contact medianly; these 4 scales covering snout in front of supraoculars. Frontal region anteriorly covered by 2 large scales; these followed by 2 somewhat smaller scales which are in turn followed by a transverse row of 4, the outermost enlarged and curving backward and outward around the inner posterior borders of the supraoculars. Posterior edges of scales of muzzle and lateral edges of those of frontal region more or less recurved. Parietal region not distinct from temporal or occipital. Upper temporal and occipital scales moderately keeled.

Prenasals wider than postnasals, in direct contact with rostral except at lower anterior corners where there is a small scale between rostral, prenasal, and first supralabial. Loreals 3-3 (the upper divided). Four small scales on each side between nasals, labials, and pit. Preoculars 2-2, the lower forming upper posterior border of pit. Lacrimals 1-1. Postoculars 4-5. Orbit separated from supralabials by 3 scales on left side, 2 on right. Lower 3 rows of temporals without keels.

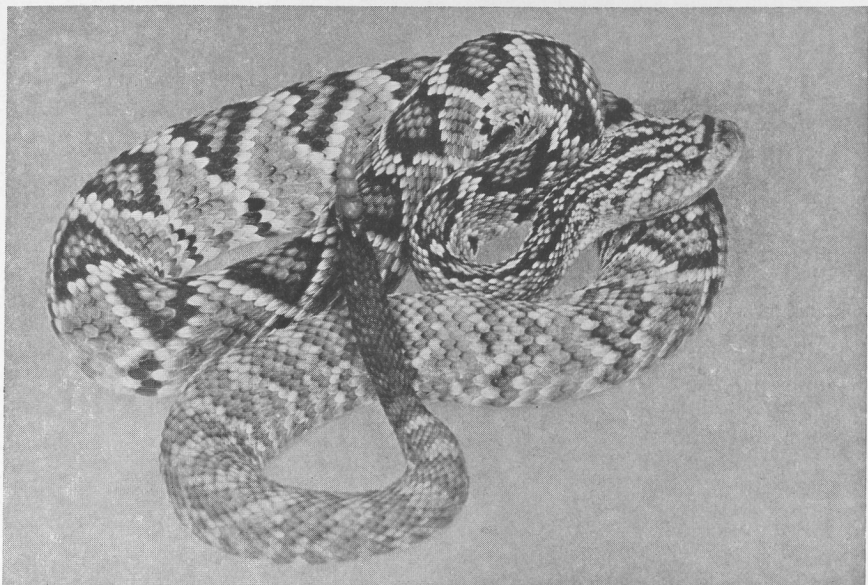


Fig. 1. *Crotalus totonacus*, sp. nov., CA 4469 (Holotype), Panaco Island, near Cabo Rojo, 75 miles south of Tampico, Veracruz.

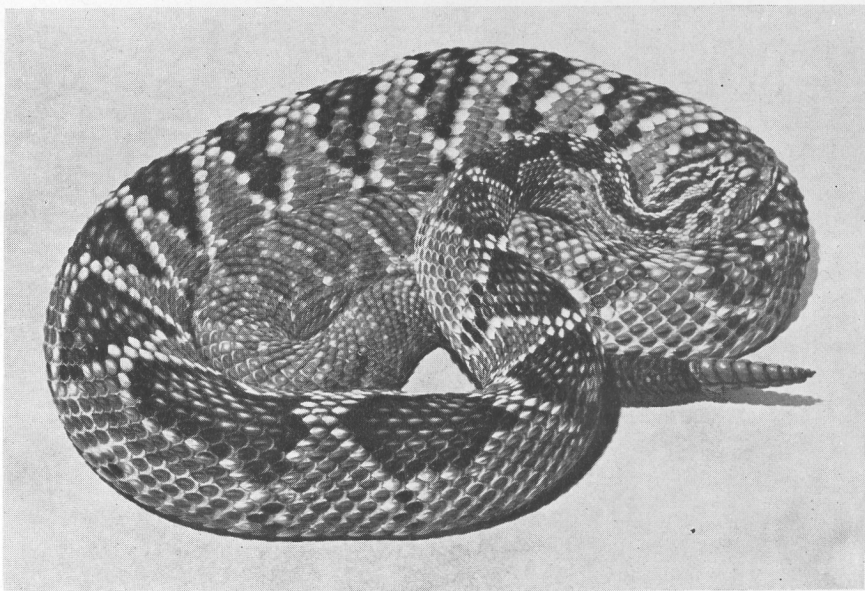


Fig. 2. *Crotalus totonacus*, sp. nov., Staten Island Zoological Society (Paratype), southern Chiapas.

Supralabials 15-14; infralabials 14-15, first pair not divided, meeting behind mental. One pair of chin shields, about twice as long as wide. Median gulars in 9 or 10 oblique rows between first ventral and last infralabial.

Dorsal scale rows 29-25-21, moderately keeled except 2 lowest rows on each side. Ventrals 192; caudals 24, the last divided. Anal not divided.

Total length when fresh 972 mm., tail 60 mm.; after six and one half years in alcohol 945 mm., tail 60 mm.; tail/total-length ratio .063. A complete set of 6 rattles, the largest (measured vertically) 13.3 mm., the smallest 4.7 mm.

Dorsal ground color yellowish olive, nearly all scales unicolor; sides and undersurfaces light yellow, belly with faint gray blotches, more numerous posteriorly. Pattern of head fairly distinct: internasals black-edged posteriorly; a narrow, transverse bar of black on posterior edges of canthals and anterior edges of supraocular and frontal scales; light supraocular dashes very wide, occupying nearly all of these plates. Cheek stripe obsolescent; no markings on rostral, sides of snout, or underside of head. A pair of irregular dark brown stripes beginning in parietal region and extending diagonally backward and outward to a point above and a little behind angle of jaw; between these a pair of parallel dark stripes extending from parietal area to neck and connecting with the first blotch of the body pattern, forming short, indistinct paravertebral stripes.

On the body a middorsal series of 31 brownish black blotches with centers of somewhat lighter brown and borders of light yellow, one scale wide; a single series of small brownish black spots on each side. Anteriorly the dorsal blotches are irregular diamonds, truncate in front, with slightly obtuse lateral angles; they are separated at the midline by one or two lengths of yellow scales. Posterior to midbody the rhombs become progressively shorter, wider, and less distinct, and are joined to the lateral spots which likewise become fainter. Tail grayish black with 8 darker crossbands. Basal segment of rattle dark gray.

Paratype.—Essentially similar to the holotype but with the anterior frontal region occupied by one large plate which is followed by three small scales. Two enlarged scales posterior to the supraoculars mark the outer edges of the parietal region. Loreals 2-2; postoculars 4-4; scales separating orbit from supralabials 2-2. Supralabials 12-12; infralabials 13-13.

Scale rows 25-25-21; ventrals 189; caudals 27, the last and one near middle divided. Total length 1524 mm.; tail 120 mm.; tail/total-length ratio .079. Rattles 9+ (10), in an acuminate series.

The dorsal pattern of this specimen is well shown in Figure 2. The ground color ranges from "orange citrine" to "straw yellow"; the 26-28 blotches are black, bordered with "straw yellow" and with central patches of scales of the same tone as the ground color. The ventral surface is "straw yellow," immaculate.

The second specimen from Panaco Island (no longer at hand) was a large female, similar in nearly all respects to the two described above. Scale rows 25-25-20; ventrals 194; caudals 25; supralabials 13-13; infralabials 15-14; internasals 2; canthals 2; scales between supraoculars 2-2; loreals 2-2; scales separating orbit from supralabials 2-2; body blotches 30; tail bands (indistinct) 3-4; total length 1665 mm.; tail 110 mm.; tail/total-length ratio .066.

Range.—Known only from the type locality in Veracruz and questionably from southern Chiapas.

According to a recent letter from Mr. Woolems, the snake sent to the Staten Island Zoological Society was shipped to him from a point (not named) in southern Chiapas and was said to have been "just collected." If the locality given for this specimen is correct, the geographic distribution of this form is not what one would expect from a consideration of the topography of the region, and its range would appear to overlap that of *durissus*. On the other hand, if it is eventually shown that *totonacus* occupies the lowlands of the East Coast of southern Mexico, it may logically be regarded as a subspecies of *C. d. durissus*.